

AKUALALE RESEARCH GROUP Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 1, 20 Jan 1957, Honolulu, Hawaii

Next Monthly Meeting - None planned for January.

SUVA, FIJI, Jan. 15 - (by reporter Jack Thornton to Honolulu Star-Bulletin) - During the past month three British skippers who were in Central Pacific waters when the atomic explosions took place at Bikini atoll (1956) have reported the seaweed vanished from their ships' hulls within 24 hours of the first explosion (May 5). Capt. V. Ward was serving on the ship John Williams VI in the northern Gilbert Islands about 700 miles from Bikini: "We'd been up in the Gilberts for months and were about due for annual refit in Suva. There was a couple of feet of grass all over her bottom. The day after the bomb went off all the grass disappeared!" The Williams was a steel hulled ship so Thornton went to a man who had skippered wooden ships in the Gilberts the summer of 1956, Capt. Alf Peckham: "I was on a copra ketch in the Gilberts and we lost our grass in the same way - timbers as smooth as a baby's backside the next day." Then Thornton called on LCDR S. Brown, commanding the Royal Fiji Navy: "The same thing happened to my ship 800 miles from the Bikini tests, I reported it to the authorities at Tarawa."

SAUCER SIGHTINGS ON INCREASE HERE, as elsewhere, apparently. I wrote to my friend, Mrs. Martha Stermer, for more details on the Dec. 1st-Mauna Loa light incident reported in our last bulletin. She could only confirm what we had already given. Mrs. Stermer lives at Holualoa, in the coffee-growing district on the Big Island of Hawaii, and she had a sighting Dec 4 at 6:10 a.m. "I called my husband to look at a UFO. It hovered over the sea, far to the north of us, off shore, too bright by far to be a planet, too big and bright for a plane coming in from Honolulu; altho my husband thought it must be one. He went back to bed but I watched until it went out like a light being turned off, leaving a momentary afterglow. . . Reading Ruppelt's Report on the UFOs, afterward, I came to the conclusion we had seen one." One of our Research Group members, an Air Force employee at Hickam Field, reports two small, spindle shaped clouds, high in the sky and comparatively motionless, Jan. 17. They were due west of her observation point. She watched them intermittently from 12:50 to 1:20 pm during her lunch hour. At the last they had divided into three. She also saw one bright, metallic flash near them. The sky was clear there. "If it was a plane it was so high I couldn't see it," she said. The clouds reminded her of the United Press photo on the jacket cover of Aimee Michel's Saucer book.

One of our neighbors was wakeful early Sunday morning, Jan. 13, about 6:30 am and from her open sleeping porch was surprised to see a glowing, disc-shaped object motionless in the eastern sky. Two trees on a ridge across the valley gave her an excellent sighting reference point. Brighter points of light along the disc's sides seemed to indicate windows. After hovering for some minutes the thing tilted and moved up and away until it disappeared. Breathlessly she told me about it later in the day "because I know you are interested in these things, Mr. Crabb."

AND PHENOMENA, TOO!!! - What sounded like a big explosion rolling across the Honolulu waterfront area at 3 pm yesterday still remains a mystery, so said the Star-Bulletin of Dec. 21. Police had no information on the origin of the blast which sounded like a large artillery shell.

New Year's Night a blue-white fireball flashed across Honolulu skies in a westerly direction at about 9:45 pm. It "broke up and burnt out while traveling diamond head" according to the Advertiser for Jan. 2. Robert Pilmer, director of Punahou School observatory, saw it and said it definitely was a meteor; but this "meteor" slowed down and cooled down from an incandescent glow to a cherry red before disintegrating? Jan. 9, 1957? Oahu residents saw a spectacular meteor streaking toward the southwest shortly after 6 am. One man said it was falling at a 60° angle, with a small bluish body and a fiery tail "brighter than most meteors you see." We wonder if this "meteor" crashed the sound barrier and set up a delayed sonic boom which walloped the city of Honolulu with a double explosion at 4:10 pm. In Pearl

Harbor Navy housing eight-year old Larry Barlow was knocked to the floor by the concussion. Mrs. Barlow said, "I've heard jets crashing the sound barrier before. That's not what this was!" A Navy public information officer agreed with her. An Air Force spokesman who claimed to have heard sonic boom hundreds of times was sure the twin booms were caused by a plane crashing the sonic barrier, but he was sure it was non of the B-47s landing at that time, "they don't go that fast." Another Navy wife said it felt like something real big landed on the house, "It was an awful blast."

THE MELANCHOLY TOLL - The first air fatality in Hawaiian waters for 1957 occurred Jan. 16 when Navy pilot Ken West crashed into the sea after a takeoff from Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station. Control tower operators watched his Fury takeoff and disappear beyond Pyramid Rock. A puff of white smoke curling upward indicated a crash at sea three miles beyond. His body was recovered by a helicopter. The Advertiser story said that last year 19 persons died in 12 crashes in and around the Islands, 3 were Navy pilots operating from carriers. But in addition to these our clippings show two Marine jet pilots who disappeared completely along with their planes, no radio warning, no debris on the ocean. One was June 16~~th~~ 11 the other Oct. 1. Both had made final contact with Kaneohe prior to landing. It was night, both were about eight miles at sea, lined up for the runway. The Oct. 1 plane was part of a flight of two. The lead plane came on in. The second one never did show up.

THE RADM FAHRNEY INTERVIEW - The "Flying Saucers Are Real" story originating in the Nation's capital Jan. 16 was a real step forward in our long search for legitimacy, and Rear Admiral Delmer S. Fahrney (ret) deserves a lot of credit for sticking his neck out. Trouble is he is retired and all we have is another man's opinion. From way out here in the Pacific it doesn't look as though anything has really changed in Washington. The real power behind the Silence Group, the National Security Council, is as intransigent as ever. As far as I know the only member of that body who answers directly to the voters is the President; and if he has sat on the Flying Saucer information for four years already without breaking it, why should we expect that he will change in the next four? His overwhelming victory in the recent election shows that the majority of the people voting approved of his past policies and behavior. The Fahrney news release did stir up a flurry of interest for me here in Honolulu, three phone calls, a dozen comments from friends, and one newspaper and one radio interview - something we've all been doing for the past two or three years - and something we'll continue doing, all of us Researchers. We'll patiently gather information. We'll gradually increase our understanding of life and our true relationship to the universe around us, AND we'll gradually pull away from the mass of people among whom we live, until the gulf of ignorance separating us will be unbridgable.

For the AKUALELE RESEARCH GROUP

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